

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A hinge assembly comprising a first and a second hinge member relatively turnably connected together about an axis of rotation and a friction member composed of an elastic material such as a rubber and disposed between said first and second hinge members, relative turning motion between said first hinge member and said second hinge member being restricted by friction resistance generated between contact surfaces of said friction member and said first and second hinge members,

    said hinge assembly further comprising interval restricting means disposed between said first hinge member and said second hinge member and adapted to restrict intervals of the contact surfaces of said first and second hinge members with respect to said friction member..

2. A hinge assembly according to claim 1, wherein said interval restricting means includes an abutment portion disposed at least at one of opposing surfaces of said first and second hinge members and for restricting the intervals of said contact surfaces of said first and second hinge members with respect to said friction member by being abutted with the other opposing surface.

3. A hinge assembly according to claim 1, wherein said first hinge member includes a main body and a movable portion disposed on said main body such that said movable portion is non-turnable but movable in a direction of the axis of rotation, and said friction member and said interval restricting means are disposed between said movable portion and said second hinge member.

4. A hinge assembly according to claim 1, wherein said first hinge member includes a main body and a movable portion, said movable portion

includes an insertion member connected to said main body such that said insertion member is non-turnable but movable in the direction of the axis of rotation and axially pierced through said second hinge member such that said insertion member is turnable and movable in a direction of the axis of rotation, and a first and second opposing portions disposed at opposite end portions of said insertion member and opposing to opposite end faces of said second hinge member, said interval restricting means is disposed between said first opposing portion and said second hinge member, and said friction member is disposed between said second opposing portion and said second hinge member.

5. A hinge assembly according to claim 4, wherein said interval restricting means includes a moving mechanism for moving said insertion member in the direction of the axis of rotation in response to the turning motion of said second hinge member within a predetermined turning range.

6. A hinge assembly according to claim 5, wherein said moving mechanism includes biasing means for biasing said insertion member so that said second opposing portion is brought towards said second hinge member, and a cam mechanism disposed between said second opposing portion and said second hinge member and for moving said insertion member against biasing force of said biasing means so that when said hinge member is turned in one direction, said second opposing portion is brought away from said second hinge member, and for moving said insertion member by the biasing force of said biasing means so that when said second hinge member is turned in the other direction, said second opposing portion is brought towards said second hinge member.

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